

Application # 10/824,900

REMARKS

Currently claims 1-29 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 3, 10 and 12 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by US Patent # 4,784,246 to Edmisten. Claims 1-29 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 (a) as being unpatentable over US Patent # 4,890,700 to Guichard in view of US Patent # 3,757,907 to Crossman et al. and further in view of Edmisten. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and further examination of claims 1-19, and 21-28. Claims 20 and 29 are herein cancelled.

Art Rejections

Claims 1, 3, 10 and 12 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by US Patent # 4,784,246 to Edmisten. Claims 1-29 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Guichard in view of Crossman et al (Crossman) and further in view of Edmisten. Claim 1 and by dependency claim 3 contain the limitation "a load bearing fastening device operative to fasten the lug cap to the individual lug, such that said lug cap does not contact said slot wall portion." The Examiner pointed out that Edmisten discloses a lug cap face 100 separated from a slot wall portion 90 by a bracket 105. Applicant contends that this does not function as applicants invention, as lug cap face 100 still "frictionally contacts the front wall 90." Therefore, applicant herein amends claims 1, 10 and 19 to more specifically state this difference. Claims 1, 10 and 19, and by dependency the remainder of the claims, have been amended to state "said lug cap face is separated from said slot wall portion by an air gap." Applicants have further amended claims 1, 10 and 19 to reflect "wherein said lug cap face is relatively parallel to said slot wall." This more specifically defines the configuration of the lug cap with relation to the lug. Applicants attorney discussed these amendments with the Examiner in a telephonic interview on July 10, 2007.

Application # 10/824,900

As neither Edmisten, Guichard or Crossman disclose this configuration with this air gap, Applicants submit that claims 1-19, and 21-28 are allowable as herein amended.

Respectfully submitted,



Kathleen K. Bowen, Esq.
Registration No. 42,352
Attorney for Applicant